

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 941 without my signature. While I appreciate the efforts by the author and stakeholders to improve coordination and oversight of California's emergency medical technicians in a manner that better protects public safety, I cannot sign this bill. AB 941 would establish a statewide registry for EMTs, establish background check requirements and provide for uniform disciplinary standards. However, it falls short of what is needed to protect public safety and ensure appropriate oversight of EMTs. Specifically, I am concerned this bill lacks requirements and penalties to assure timely notice when an investigation is initiated, does not provide sufficient authority for local medical directors to independently initiate investigations, and fails to establish clear standards for background checks. In addition, I am concerned that the bill would significantly limit public disclosure. I therefore direct the Health and Human Services Agency to work in a collaborative manner with stakeholders on legislation that builds on AB 941, and improves it to get the job done.

For these reasons, I am returning Assembly Bill 941 without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger